NEWS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2008

WORKSAFE
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
worksafebc.com

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WorkSafeBC announces 2009 preliminary rates

While the 2009 rates won't be finalized until the fall, WorkSafeBC's projections show the average base rate will remain at $1.56 per $100 of employers' assessable payroll in 2009. That's the same as 2008 and the lowest rate in 30 years, down from $2.29 in 1996.

Based on projections for 2009, 40 percent of employers will see their base rates go up or down by 5 cents or less per $100 of assessable worker payroll. Twenty-four percent will see their base rates decrease by more than 5 cents. Twenty-nine percent will see their base rates increase between 6 and 25 cents, and 7 percent will see increases of more than 25 cents.

For more information, visit **www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/2009_prelim_rates/default.asp**.

Online clearances get a facelift

Thanks to customer feedback, WorkSafeBC has made improvements to its online clearance tool. Among the changes, each step is now clearly marked so that you know exactly what you need to complete your clearance letter request.

A clearance letter indicates whether a subcontractor is registered with WorkSafeBC and paying premiums as required. If the subcontractor isn't registered, and you hire that subcontractor, you could be liable for premiums owing in connection with work or services done on your behalf.

Before you hire a subcontractor, be sure to obtain a clearance letter at **www.worksafebc.com/insurance/managing_your_account/clearance_letters/default.asp**.

Employer alert about WHMIS training materials

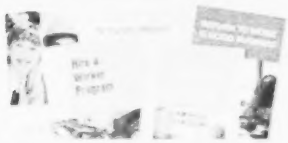
WorkSafeBC has received inquiries from employers regarding safety training for the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS).

Employers want to know what's required by provincial and federal WHMIS legislation, whether they must purchase workplace training from businesses offering these services to be in compliance, and if training provided by these companies is endorsed by WorkSafeBC.

The bottom line is, these businesses aren't certified by WorkSafeBC, nor is it necessary to purchase this training to comply with the regulations. In fact, employers may develop their own materials and conduct their own in-house training to be in compliance.

WHMIS information, resources, and training materials are available at **WorkSafeBC.com**.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



How to work with WorkSafeBC

Here are some handy downloadable guides to help you work with WorkSafeBC.

- ***Claims review and appeal guide for employers:*** For WorkSafeBC claim decisions
- ***Hire a Worker Program:*** Gives employers access to skilled workers without incurring the usual costs associated with advertising, recruitment, and training
- ***Return to work is good business:*** Besides retaining healthy, qualified employees, an employer can save money through "loss prevention"
- ***The Partners Program:*** Provides employers with information about participating in the program and the rewards of health, safety, and effective return to work

To download the guides, go to **www.worksafebc.com/publications/how_to_work_with_the_wcb/default.asp**.

Homeowner registration with WorkSafeBC

While most businesses in B.C. need to register with WorkSafeBC, some residents also must register. If you contract for services in your home – renovation or child care services, for example – you could be deemed an employer. If so, you may need to register with WorkSafeBC and pay premiums. In return, you can't be sued for the costs of a work-related injury or disease. If a worker is injured while working in your home, WorkSafeBC will pay for the worker's entire medical and wage-loss costs.

For more information, visit **www.worksafebc.com/insurance/need_coverage/emp_05.asp**.

In the July/August issue of WorkSafe Magazine

Outdoor workers need to be protected from the heat and sun.

To read this story and learn about other helpful workplace tools, and to find out how to subscribe, visit **WorkSafeMagazine.com**.

Did You Know?

In 2007, the average length of short-term time-loss benefits was 46.3 days.

Multi-language web sites on WorkSafeBC.com

On July 24, WorkSafeBC launched web sites in Mandarin, Cantonese, and Punjabi – the first of several that will offer general information and online resources in multiple languages.

Each site includes a brief welcome webcast featuring a WorkSafeBC spokesperson explaining the role and history of the organization, and highlights the online resources available in that respective language.

Plans are also in the works to create web sites in Spanish, Farsi, Vietnamese, French, and Korean. The list of languages is based on the frequency of requests – both for publications and Teleclaim services.

Calendar of events

Physician Education Conference
October 11, 2008
Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna
www.worksafebc.com/news_room/conferences/default.asp

Small Business Week
October 13 - 17, 2008
www.bdc.ca/en/about/events_publications/default.htm

Health, Work and Wellness Conference 2008
October 15 - 18, 2008
Calgary TELUS Convention Centre
http://conferences.healthworkandwellness.com

International Association of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions (IAIABC) Conference
October 25 - 31, 2008
Fairmont Waterfront, Vancouver
www.bcin2008.com

Popular contacts

- Claims Call Centre 604 231-8888, toll-free 1 888 967-5377
- Employer Service Centre 604 244-6181 toll-free 1 888 922-2768
- Prevention Information Line 604 276-3100 toll-free 1 888 621-7233
- Human Resources 604 276-3009, toll-free 1 888 757-5552
- Report fraud 1 877 523-3315
- Teleclaim 1 888 WORKERS (967-5377)

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